

REMARKS

The Office Action contends that the following groups of claims lack unity of invention:

Group I	-	Claims 17 to 25 and 35
Group II	-	Claims 26 to 33

The claims of Group I, i.e., claims 17 to 25 and 35, are elected with traverse.

As an initial matter, the Examiner will note that new claim 36 has been added herein and that new claim 36 depends from claim 17. As such, claim 36 should be grouped with Group I and examined with Group I.

Applicants respectfully traverse for the following reasons:

As an initial matter, the Office Action reflects an apparent misapprehension of “unity of invention.” In this regard, the unity of invention requirement is met if there is a technical relationship among the groups of claims involving one or more of the same or corresponding special technical features. In order to determine whether one or more of the same or corresponding special technical features is involved, it must be determined what contribution the groups of claims makes over the prior art. The Office Action does not in any manner discuss any prior art. Rather, the Office Action merely contends that “group I lacks at least determining the desirability of the signal for subsequent data processing.” Without reference to prior art, this contention is entirely irrelevant. Thus, it is plainly apparent that a proper unity of invention analysis has not been performed.

In addition, new claims 36 and 37 constitute linking claims, thereby linking the claims of Group I and Group II.

Furthermore, since the claims of Groups I and II have already been searched and have already undergone some degree of examination, there would be no serious burden on the Examiner to continue and complete examination of the claims of Groups I and II.

In view of all of the foregoing, withdrawal of the unity of invention objection and examination of all of the pending claims are respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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